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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 016887/1044

Applicant: Toshiaki TANAKA



Title: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS, COMMUNICATION SYSTEM FOR MAINTENANCE OF IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS, MAINTENANCE SERVICE METHOD OF IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS, AND MEDIUM STORING INFORMATION TO BE USED IN MAINTENANCE

Serial No.: 09/895,877

Filed: July 2, 2001

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Examiner: Unassigned

MAR 25 2002

Art Unit: 2672

Technology Center 2100

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56 and 37 CFR §1.97**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any documents which is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

**TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is believed to be filed prior to the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits (first scenario). If that is not the case, such as in a second scenario in which a first Office Action on the merits has been mailed before the filing of the instant Information Disclosure Statement,

then the PTO is authorized to obtain the necessary fee to have the instant IDS considered, from Foley & Lardner Deposit Account #19-0741.



**RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

Document A2 discloses a remote-maintenance system of facsimile equipment.

Document A3 discloses a remote-maintenance system of printers and copiers which are connected to a computer network (LAN, internet, etc.).

Document A4 discloses a remote-maintenance system of printers and copiers which are connected to a computer network (LAN, internet, etc.).

Document A5 discloses a remote-maintenance system of printers and copiers which are connected to a computer network (LAN, internet, etc.).

English translations of documents A2-A5 are not readily available; however, English language abstracts are provided. The absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). English language abstracts are provided for documents A2-A5. Applicant also notes that document A1 is a U.S. patent counterpart to document A5.

Applicant respectfully requests that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,

Johnny A. Kumar  
Registration No. 34,649

Date

3/21/02

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SHEET 1 OF 1

FORM PTO 1449 ( <i>modified</i> )  U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)				ATTY DOCKET NO.: 016887/1044		SERIAL NO.: 09/895,877	
				APPLICANT: Toshiaki TANAKA			
				FILING DATE July 2, 2001			GROUP: 2672
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A1	5,619,307	4-8-1997	Machino et al.	399	11	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
	A2	5-14576	1-22-1993	Japan			Abstract
	A3	11-202699	7-30-1999	Japan			Abstract
	A4	11-69063	3-9-1999	Japan			Abstract
	A5	8-23408	1-23-1996	Japan			Abstract
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							MAR 25 2002
							Technology Center 2100
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

*\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.*